

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The claims have been revised to correct the improper multiple dependency noted in the Office Action. Claim 24 has been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite means for substantially preventing at least one of the protuberances rotatably received in one of the journal recesses from being removed from the one of the journal recesses when the grating is in the operative position. Basis for this is found at the paragraph bridging pages 5-6. Claim 12 has been amended to depend from Claim 11, and so now provides antecedent basis for the block arrangement.

According to a feature of the invention set forth in the claims, a drainage assembly includes a grating which is hingedly securable to a frame by an arrangement which is resiliently biased. For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of the figures, resiliently deformable forks 34 and 36 provided on the grating include protuberances which may be rotatably housed in journal recesses 42 of journal bearings 37-38, so that the grating may be hingedly securable to the frame. The resilient deformability of the forks permits ready and quick construction of the drainage assembly but renders it difficult for unauthorized persons to dismantle the assembly.

According to a further feature of the invention, means are provided for substantially preventing at least one of the protuberances rotatably received in one of the journal recesses from being removed from one of the journal recesses when the grating is in the operative position. An example of this means is disclosed in the form of the flats 41a, 41b of the protuberances and the cooperating grooves 43 of the journal bearings.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by either EP '306 or EP '591. However, neither reference teaches or suggest means for substantially preventing at least one of the protuberances located in a journal recess from being removed

from the recess when the grating is in the operative position. The amended claims are therefore neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by these references.

Concerning the objection to the drawings, Applicants note that a second pair of forks is illustrated in Figures 1-3. For example, the (unnumbered) second set of forks is illustrated adjacent forks 36 and 38 in Figures 1-3. Accordingly, the second set of forks is already illustrated in the figures.

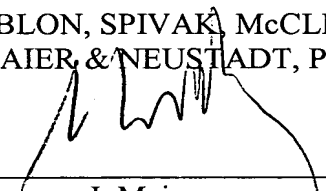
Concerning the objection to the oath or declaration, it is noted that identification of the application in the declaration by the attorney docket number is permitted. See M.P.E.P. § 602(VI).

The specification has been amended to delete reference to a claim number.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\RTPI\246619US-AM.DOC